

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6740

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4078

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, LAFTA.

SUBJECT: LAFTA MEETING AT BUENOS AIRES.

REF: A) BA 2603, APRIL 10, 1974; B) BA A-60, FEBRUARY 25, 1974.

1. LAFTA MEETING DISCUSSED IN REF A) HAS BEEN SET FOR JULY 1ST THROUGH 7TH AT BUENOS AIRES.

2. AGENDA INCLUDES THREE PRINCIPAL ITEMS: A) A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES; B) A SCHEME FOR A PROGRAM OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH 1980, AND C) THE ANDEAN GROUP REQUEST TO BE ALLOWED TO WITHDRAW CONCESSIONS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A DEFINITE DECISION WILL BE REACHED ON ANY OF THESE THREE TOPICS AT THIS MEETING. THE MAIN PURPOSE WILL BE TO MUTUALLY EXPLORE POSITIONS. IN FACT, THE ANDEANS HAVE STILL NOT AGREED ON A COMMON POSITION AND ARE NOW MEETING IN AN ATTEMPT TO DO SO.

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3. THE LAFTA SECRETARIAT AS PREPARED A MEMORANDUM TO PRESENT TO

THE MEETING CONTAINING TWO ALTERNATIVE PATHS FOR LAFTA FOR THE
PERIOD THROUGH 1980. ONE IS THE BALDINELLI THESIS DESCRIBED IN
REF. B). THE SECOND, ATTRIBUTED TO NESTOR RUOCCO OF THE LAFTA
SECRETARIAT, ENVISAGES THE CREATION
OF AN ATLANTIC BLOC WITHIN WHICH
TARIFF CONCESSIONS COULD BE GRANTED WITHOUT EXTENDING THEM TO THE
ANDEAN BLOC. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW BEING HELD AMONG
THE COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE ATLANTIC BLOC AND WE
EXPECT TO HAVE A LINE-UP OF COUNTRY POSITIONS WITHIN A FEW
DAYS.
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